

US Army Corps of Engineers

Vicksburg District 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3485



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.: RMS-200300700

EVALUATOR: PHONE NO.:

FAX NO.: E-MAIL:

DATE:

EXPIRATION DATE: August 27, 2003

Mr. Mike Stewart

(601) 631-5998

(601) 631-5459 regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil

August 6, 2003

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District proposes to discharge dredged and fill material into waters of the United States pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the proposed construction described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 30, Chapter 11, Part IV, Section 2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217). Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, ATTN: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources, Water Pollution Control Division, Post Office Box 82215, Baton Rouge, LA 70884, and must reach these offices by the cited expiration date. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has additional information on file in their office in Baton Rouge and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality upon payment of cost of printing. Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will make a final decision on the water quality certification pertaining to this application within 30 days after expiration of this notice.

Laws Requiring a Permit: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 U.S.C. 403), which applies to structures or work in navigable waters of the United States, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Location of Work: The proposed project will include weir construction at four locations in Bayou Macon. Weir #1: 13, T12N-R8E, Franklin Parish; latitude 32° 1'34.3165", longitude 91°36'32.3254"; Weir #2: section 3, T14N-R9E, Franklin Parish; latitude 32° 9'19.9321", longitude 91°33'31.9833"; Weir #3:

section 4, T20N-R11E, West Carroll Parish; latitude 32° 45'13.0528", longitude 91°20'37.9220"; Weir #4: section 14, T22N-R11E, West Carroll Parish; latitude 32°53'42.8811", longitude 91°18'40.6959".

Description of Work: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, proposes to construct four weirs in Bayou Macon, with two weirs being located in Franklin and two weirs being located in West Carroll Parishes, Louisiana. Bayou Macon is a navigable waterway of the United States. The proposed project would consist of construction of four earthen weirs overlaid with stone to prevent erosion. Weir locations have been strategically placed to provide dependable water levels along 63.7 miles of Bayou Macon during the summer months (Enclosure 1). Each weir is designed to have a 5-foot crown Weir heights would be matched to site conditions such that water depth maintained by each weir would be contained within the channel based on a 1963 channel profile. Typical weir plans, cross sections, and profiles are shown in (Enclosures 2-5). General weir specifications are as follows. The upstream face of each weir would have a slope of 1:4, and downstream slopes would be 1:10. Materials used to construct the weirs would be earthen fill obtained from cutting the channel side slopes to a 1 vertical on 3 horizontal. Bedding stone would be placed on top of the earthen fill and then overlaid with stone riprap (R-1000 stone at Site 1 and R-650 at Sites 2, 3, and 4). Clearing the banks for construction of the weirs would require approximately one acre per weir (see text below for more detail regarding each weir). When water is flowing over a weir, the long rock slope downstream (approximately 60 feet in length) would aid water aeration, thus increasing dissolved oxygen (DO) levels. The weirs would restore an estimated 63.7 miles of channel impacted by the original flood control project authorized in 1947. Estimated lengths of pools that would be created behind each weir are as follows: 12.7 miles at Weir #1; 24.0 miles at Weir #2; 13.3 miles at Weir #3; 13.7 miles at Weir #4. Construction details for each weir are as follows.

Weir #1. Weir #1, to be located at River Mile (RM) 19.5 in Franklin Parish, Louisiana, (Enclosure 6), would be 176 feet long x 185 feet wide; would include 10,176 cubic yards of clays and clay silts, 1730 tons of bedding stone, and 5917 tons of R-1000 riprap. Weir #1 would have a 0.75-acre footprint in jurisdictional waters (i.e. 0.27-acre wetlands; 0.48-acres other waters). Additionally, clearing of the construction site would impact approximately 1.01 total acres of wooded wetlands. Of this total acreage, approximately 0.27 acres would be permanently impacted by weir construction, and 0.74 acres would be restored following weir construction.

Weir #2 Weir #2, to be located at RM 32.2 in Franklin Parish, Louisiana, (Enclosure 7), would be 176 feet long x 212 feet wide; will include 11,359 cubic yards of clays and clay silts, 1885 tons of bedding stone, and 6346 tons of R-650 riprap. Weir #2 would have

a 0.85-acre footprint in jurisdictional waters (i.e. 0.37-acre wetlands; 0.48-acres other waters). Additionally, clearing of the construction site would impact approximately 1.01 total acres of wooded wetlands. Of this total acreage, approximately 0.27 acres would be permanently impacted by weir construction and 0.74 acres would be restored following weir construction.

Weir #3. Weir #3, to be located at RM 99.3 in West Carroll Parish, Louisiana, (Enclosure 8), will be 176 feet long x 210 feet wide; would include 11,028 cubic yards of clays and clay silts, 1836 tons of bedding stone, and 6212 tons of R-650 riprap. Weir #3 would have a 0.85-acre footprint in jurisdictional waters (i.e. 0.61-acre wetlands; 0.24-acres other waters). Further, clearing of the construction site would impact approximately 0.87 total acres of wooded wetlands. Of this total acreage, approximately 0.61 acres would be permanently impacted by weir construction and 0.26 acres would be restored following weir construction.

Weir #4. Weir #4, to be located at RM 113.0 in West Carroll Parish, Louisiana, (Enclosure 9), would be 176 feet long x 160 feet wide; would include 5759 cubic yards of clays and clay silts, 1155 tons of bedding stone, and 4307 tons of R-650 riprap. Weir #3 would have a 0.65-acre footprint in jurisdictional waters (i.e. 0.41-acre wetlands; 0.24-acres other waters). Further, clearing of the construction site would impact approximately 0.54 total acres of wooded wetlands. Of this total acreage, approximately 0.41 acres would be permanently impacted by weir construction and 0.13 acres would be restored following weir construction.

<u>PURPOSE AND NEED</u>: The applicant's stated purpose for the project is to restore 63.7 miles of Bayou Macon for benefit to water quality, resident waterfowl, sport and commercial fish, fur-bearing mammals, freshwater mussels, recreational usage, and aesthetic values. In the short term, this project should sustain the aquatic community over the normally stressful low-water period. In the long term, the project should help stabilize and improve the quality of fish and wildlife habitat along the affected part of the bayou.

State Water Quality Certification: Application has been made for a water quality certification from the State of Louisiana in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

<u>Project Authority</u>: The project authority is Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986.

<u>Environmental Assessment</u>: A draft environmental assessment is available at the Vicksburg District for public review.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>: A cultural resources survey will be conducted at the project site prior to construction. The Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism will be provided a copy of this public notice for review. An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in Franklin and West Carroll Parishes listed in the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archaeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

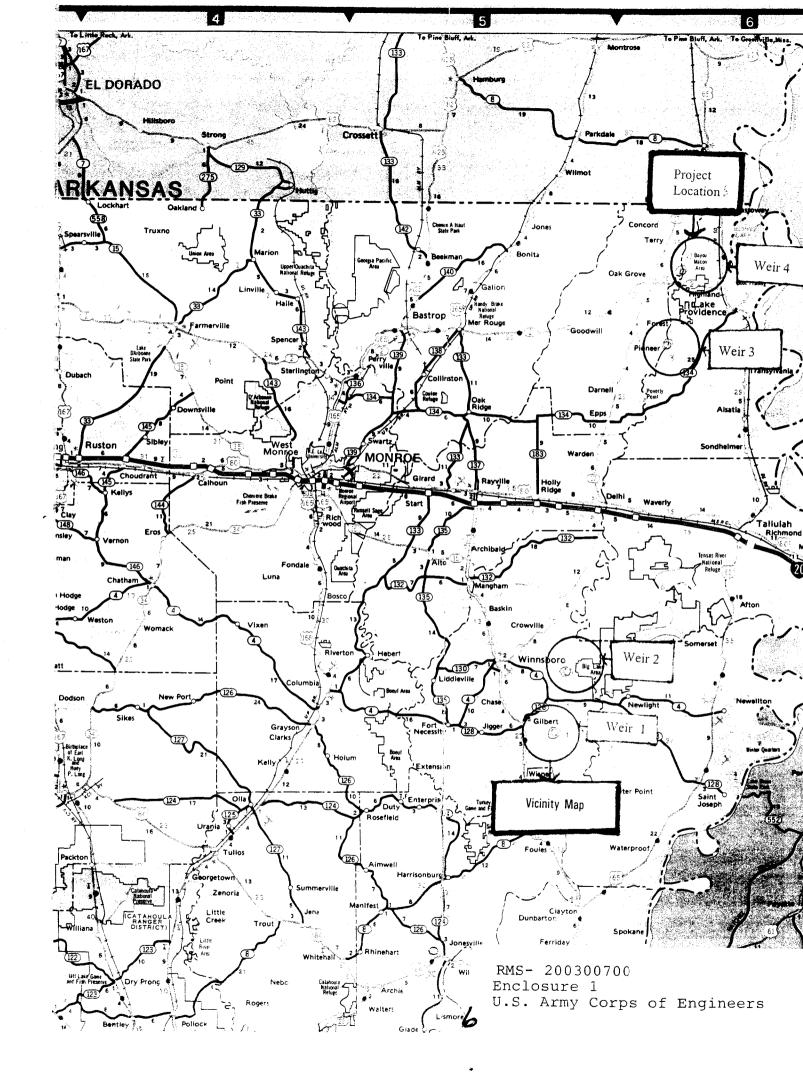
<u>Public Participation</u>: All factors relating to the affected aquatic ecosystem which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered and evaluated in light of guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

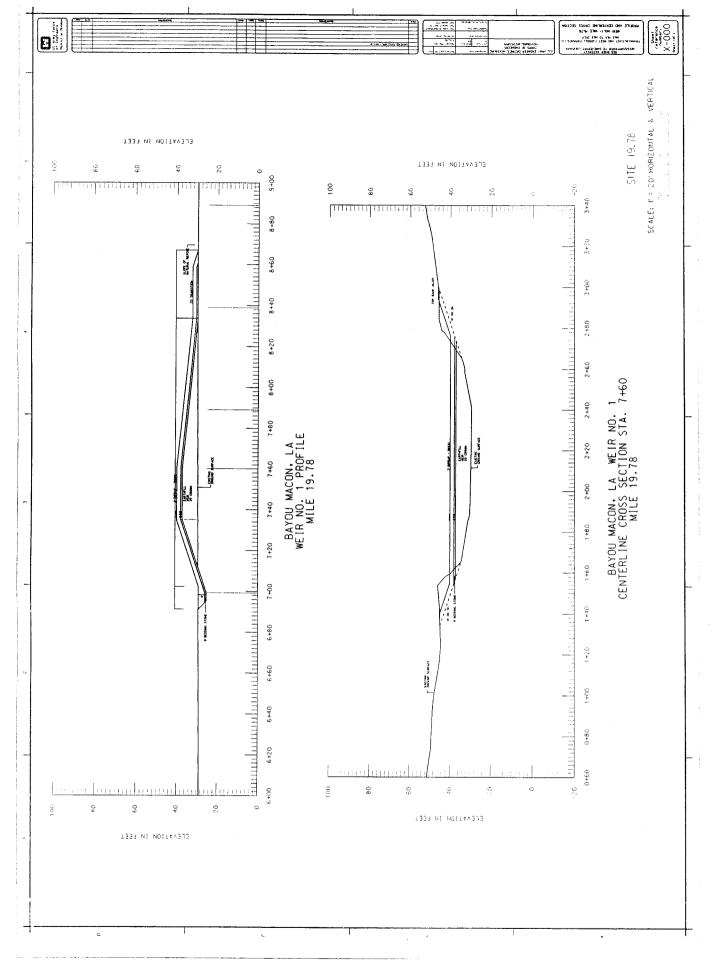
The decision whether or not to allow the construction of the project will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed discharge of dredged material into waters of the United States. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of water-related resources. The benefits which may reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonable foreseeable detriments.

Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this proposal. This request must be made by the specified public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in the matter.

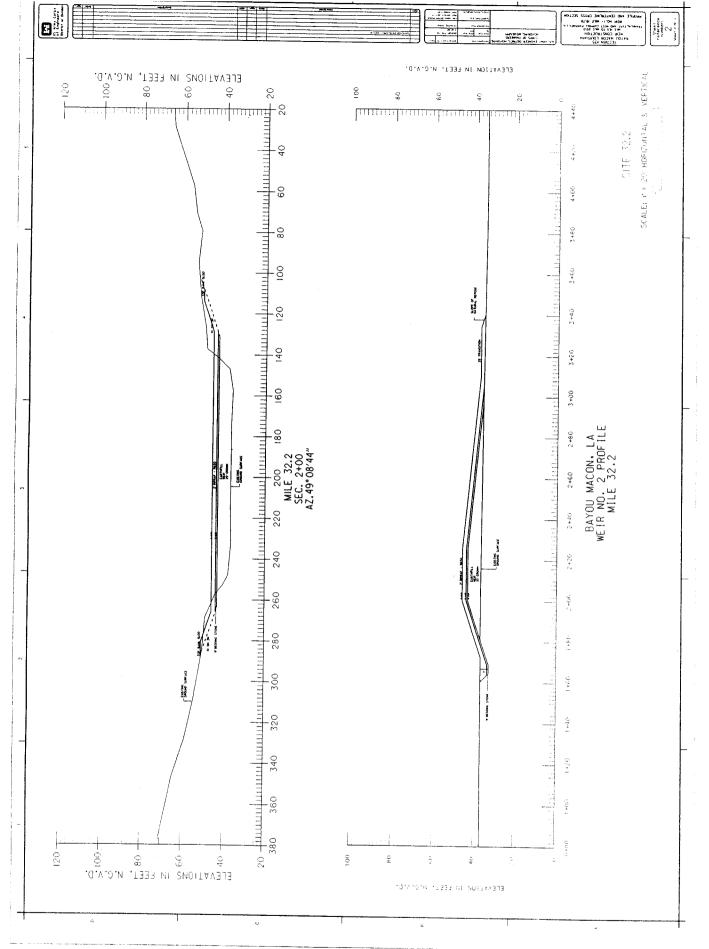
Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp.

Joyce C. Butler Acting Team Leader Evaluation Section

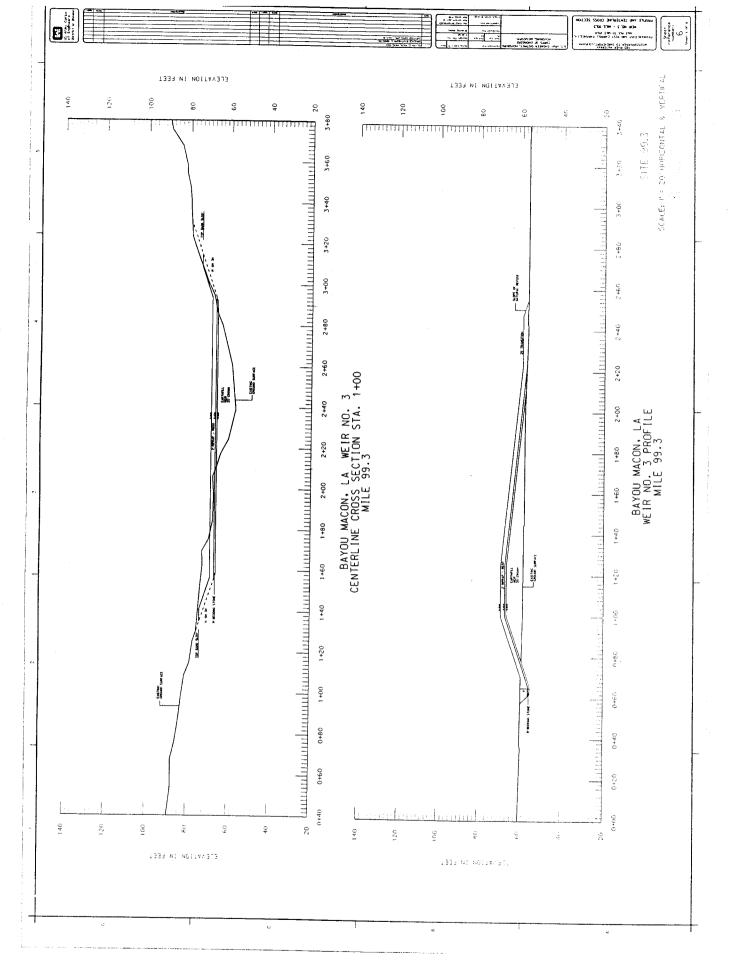




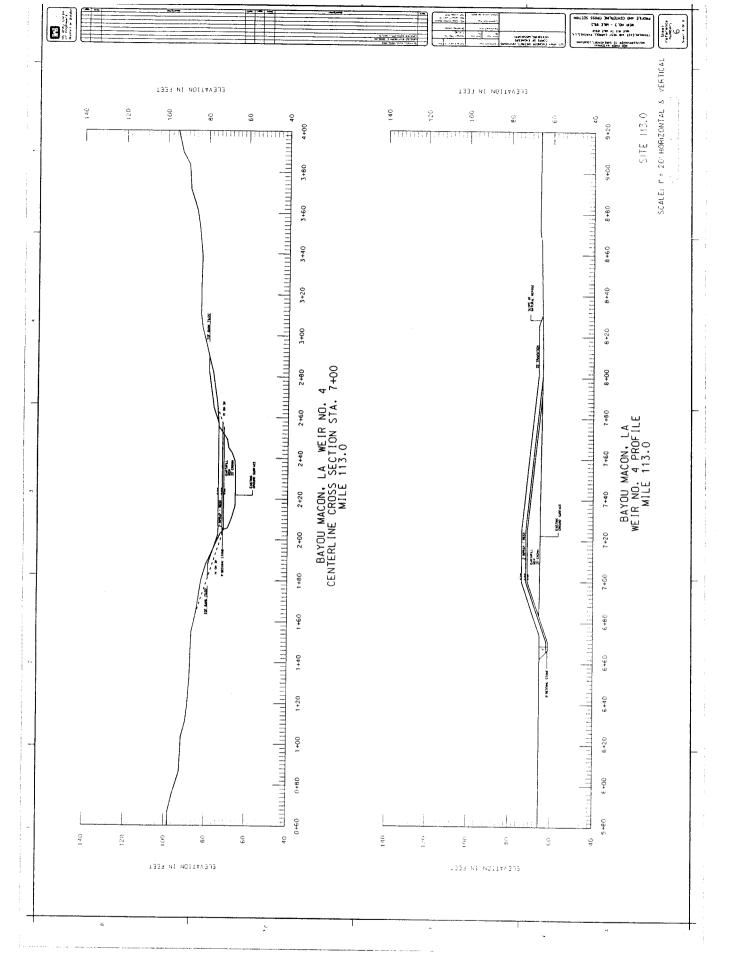
RMS-200300700 Enclosure 2 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



RMS- 200300700
Enclosure 3
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



RMS- 200300700
Enclosure 4
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



10

RMS- 200300700 Enclosure 5 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

